

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 4**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-121**  
**DATE: October 24, 2005    Time: 3:30 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Winter Storm** – A record-breaking early winter storm with heavy snow, rain and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota on October 4-5, 2005, disrupting power supplies and stranding motorists.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** In Billings County, one city of Medora public works employee sustained minor nose injuries when a tree branch struck him in the face.
3. **DAMAGES:** The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local and tribal emergency managers:

**Billings County**

On October 12, the Billings County Emergency Manager reported that an estimated 17 inches of heavy, wet snow on October 5 caused massive tree damage and street blockage in the city of Medora. Nearly every tree had broken branches; trees were downed which caused street blockages and closures. There have been reports of minor home and vehicle damages caused by broken branches. The city of Medora has contracted emergency labor to assist in debris removal.

**Dunn County**

The October 4-5 heavy, wet snow damaged approximately 80 percent of the trees in the cities of Killdeer, Halliday, Dunn Center and Dodge. Power was lost throughout the county on October 4 and was not fully restored until October 10. City and county employees have been working overtime to clear roads of snow and debris. Killdeer and Halliday Schools resumed classes on October 7, with Dodge moving their classes to Golden Valley due to power outage.

### **McHenry County**

The snow storm left numerous residents without power throughout the county. The city of Upham operated the sewer system manually. A house in the city of Deering was destroyed by fire, which started in the area of the furnace. Many residents removed the downed trees and snow. Other cooperatives assisted with restoring power.

#### **4. RESOURCES:**

**LOCAL:** Agencies monitoring conditions include local and tribal dispatch centers, law enforcement, maintenance crews, public works, emergency management officials and rural electric cooperatives.

**STATE:** Agencies monitoring conditions include the Governor's Office, N.D. State Electrical Board, N.D. National Guard (NDNG), N.D. Highway Patrol (NDHP), N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT), Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the N.D. Department of Health, the N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS) and the N.D. Department of Emergency Services' Divisions of State Radio and Homeland Security.

**FEDERAL:** The NWS has been issuing periodic weather reports, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been monitoring reports.

#### **5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.**

#### **6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven announced that a formal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), conducted in partnership with local, tribal, state and federal officials, is underway to assess the damage to affected counties, tribal lands and Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) resulting from the winter storm that struck central and western North Dakota in early October. Hoeven sent a letter to David Maurstad, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII, requesting the agency's continued support, as well as a team to assist with the assessment.**

### **Billings County**

On October 7, the mayor of the city of Medora signed an emergency declaration for damages to trees, homes, utilities, businesses and other public and private facilities caused by heavy snows.

### **Dunn County**

An emergency declaration was signed by the County Commission on October 8 and the mayors of the cities of Halliday, Killdeer, Dunn Center and Dodge issued emergency declarations on October 10.

### **Stark County**

The Stark County Commissioners signed an emergency declaration on October 14.

**Three Affiliated Tribes**

On October 11, the Three Affiliated Tribes Chairman signed an emergency declaration for damages to homes and businesses caused by heavy snows.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

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Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security